## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1848.

PEACE MEMORIAL FROM THE QUAKERS.

Mr. KING, of Massachusetts, by leave, presented the m Mr. KING, of Massachusetts, by seave, presented the me-morial of the representatives of the yearly meeting of the so-ciety of Friends for New England, praying for the speedy termination of the war with Mexico, and moved its reference to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and that it be printed. The motion was divided, and the memorial was refe the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The question recurring on the motion to print—

Mr. KING addressed the House as follows: I had supposed that a memorial so important, coming from a people so respectable, would be printed without a question. This me-morial comes from nine thousand persons residing in six sovereign States of this Union; persons who, for sobriety, general intelligence, and private worth, compare favorably with any other class of citizens; men warmly attached to the country and its free institutions. They are men who emphatically and its free institutions. They are men who emphatically mind their own business, who maintain their own poor, pay taxes for general purposes, and educate their own children; they are not found a burden on the community, in almshouses, jails, or penitentiaries; they render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and ask peacefully to enjoy the rights of con-The Friends of New England who present this memorial,

like the other followers of Penn throughout the Union, have no party or political organization; they never vex Congress with petitions about banks or tariffs, or land distribution, or subtreasuries; it is only on great moral and religious questions that they are the subtreasures. tions that they come here; it is only when conscience prompts that their voice is heard in this hall, and that solemn voice

must not now be suppressed.

The expense of printing this memorial will not exceed three or four dollars; we every day print papers of very little importance, and some of even doubtful character. Within the last five minutes you have ordered the printing of a bill which provides for paying for horses lost or killed in the mili-tary service of the United States. This was deemed worth tary service of the United States. This was deemed worth printing; but a memorial so decent, so respectful, from the Society of Friends, who consider themselves bound to do to others as they would that others should do to them; the memorial of the Friends of all New England, who feel a necessity laid on them to bear their testimony faithfully against all wars and fightings; a testimony which their predecessors in religious profession have uniformly borne through good report and evil report, and in former times, through much erred sufreligious profession have uniformly borne through good report and evil report, and in former times through much cruel suffering, both bodily and mental, must not be printed on account of establishing a bad precedent. On the table before you lies a petition, printed in the Senate, of the officers of the United States army in Mexico, praying for the passage of a law making provision for old and disabled officers. It may be right, then, to provide for disabled officers; but it is not right to agitate the question of bringing to a speedy close the war which makes such provisien necessary. The progress of the war must not be questioned, though forty battles have achieved enough for glory; though the blood of more than twenty-given thousand slain and wounded Americans, citizens of the war must not equestion, the blood of more than twenty-seven thousand slain and wounded Americans, citizens of the sister republics, has dreached the Mexican soil; though scores of thousands of widows, and orphans, and friends are mourn-ing for their loved and lost friends. It may be right to vote men and money for the further prosecution of this war of invasion, but the refusal to print this memorial must be considered as the expression of a determination not to give the question of a speedy termination of the war a respectful and decent consid-

Mr. K. said he hoped he should not be obliged to ask for the yeas and nays, but that the House would permit this memorial, from a class of the people so numerous and worthy, and on a subject which involves the character, the presperity, and the lasting honor and true glory of the nat printed. He hoped that, however much members might be suspected of a want of conscientiousness there, they would not manifest a wanton recklessness and disrespect for a class of men who abhor all war and fighting; who cherish the belief that the peacemakers are the children of God, and whose lives that the peacemakers are the children of God, and whose lives and conduct exemplify and prove the truth of their professions.

Mr. COBB, of Georgia, was opposed to the printing of this document, without reference to its contents or to the character and respectability of the memorialists. The gentleman from Massachnsetts was aware that opposition had ever been made to the printing of any memorial of individual citizens, however The utmost extent to which the House had gone, with some few exceptions, was to print the memorials and resolutions of our State Legislatures. It was unjust, invidious, to draw distinctions between citizens of different portions of the country. If they printed the memorial of the Friends, they ought to print the memorials of any other citizens of this country who respectfully petitioned this House for action on any subject.
The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. King) said that

these memorialists were good citizens; that they maintained their own poor, educated their own children, paid their own taxes, and obeyed the laws. Every word of this, however true in regard to them, (and he had no doubt of it,) was equally true in regard to the citizens he had the honor to represent; and yet the citizens of the State of Georgia had on more than one occasion passed resolutions at their primary meetings, and had signed petitions, which when presented to this House were refused to be printed. And not only so, but the fact was equally true in regard to the constituents of every gentleman on this floor. Yet they did not expend the public money in printing these memorals, so unnecessary and uncalled for once open the door, and it would be necessary to print all the petitions which were presented, (to which he, Mr. C., presumed not a single gentleman on this floor would consent,) or criminations, invidious discriminations, must be made be-

some peculiar cause for their printing. To this rule he knew there had been some exceptions, but he trusted they would not e repeated. He moved to lay the motion to print on the table.

Mr. KING, of Massachusetts, asked the yeas and nays on

e motion.

Mr. HENLEY said he did not like to be obliged to vote upon a question of this sort until——
The SPEAKER reminded the gentleman from Indiana that the motion to lay on the table was not debatable.

Mr. HENLEY appealed to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Coss) to withdraw, to give him the opportunity to make some remarks.

Mr. COBB, in compliance with the request, withdrew the

gress to feel the responsibility of the situation it occupies be-fore the country, and to take measures to bring about a peace. When they come and ask us to feel our responsibility the country and bring about a peace, they charge us with not feeling our responsibility and with having no desire for peace.

And in charging it they charge a falsehood on this Congress; or on that particular party against which they mean to make it. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. It is for this reason that I desire to make a few remarks. I admit they are respectable people—I admit they are good citizens. I am proud to acknowledge that there are many of them in my own State and in my own district. There are some of that clars of people amongst my own relatives. of my connexions are of that denomination of people. I know them, and they know they have been opposed to this country this country in every contest. In the holy war of the Revolution they the subject, of war. They may have been honest; but the Britain. That every one will acknowledge. This people ed by Mexico, they were responsible before God and man then prayed for peace, and on what conditions? Not because for all their octs or neglects in relation to the whole subject. ould secure the honor and glory of the national character, but they desired a peace at all hazards. And that is and independe that these memorialists now ash. They do not ask you to vince, which she still claimed as an integral part of her eake care to maintain the honor and integrity of the country, pire, Mr. M. would not say that it had ever been possible take care to maintain the honor and integrity of the country, or its good name and character, but they ask you to make peace—an unconditional peace of any kind; and for that reaon I will not consent to print their memorial. I have respect | nistration nev personally acquainted with many of them, and I admit they are honest, creditable persons. I acknowledge that, but beyond that I cannot go.

I will repeat that I am opposed to the motion to print, be-

conditional peace, without regard to the character of the country. I might say something more in relation to this very re-Though they are very honest and very conspectable people. scientious people, perhaps it may be that on war they are not so conscientious as they might be. I know a plausible reason for a large increase of the army and navy, the occupants of the high offices of this republic, but they have military chieftains for high office; and may they not do it again? I know this is inconsistent with their professed character, but we know that all men are liable to err; and if of those who undertook to become the purity of character, we shall find that they are not exempt from the frailties of human nature; and therefore, while they are inconsistent, they may claim to be conscientious. When they deemed it necessary they could vote for a military chief tain of the Federal party, and may they not at some received ed it necessary they could vote for a military chief-Federal party, and may they not at some period be brought to support a war ! Sir, I am opposed to the mo-

Mr. PALFREY said that he understood the gentleman

theman from Indiana himself that he was in order in the remarks which he had made on the question before the House. He maintained that this memorial, which came from the conference of Friends, ought to be printed, because in no other way would it in the ordinary course of things come before the House. When such memorials as that which he held in his heard, and that researched he has a clearly applied to which hand, and that presented by his friend—memorials to which signatures were obtained with so much pains, indicating great interest in the subject—were presented to the consideration of the House, if the House would not allow the rules pertaining to matters of that kind to be carried into effect-if the to be buried in the hands of their standing committees, then he said it was most material and important that the House should print them, at least that through the medium of the pressthese the world had seen, turned pale, and wept, and trembled on stitions might be brought to the view of the House and of the people at large. It was to say this that he had risen, and the gentleman from Indiana would see that his argument was

mr. Haskell. moved the previous question.

Mr. COBB, of Georgia, moved to lay the motion to print the memorial on the table; which motion to lay on the table was decided in the negative.

The House refusing to lay the motion to print on the

The demand for the previous question was seconded, and under its operation the memorial was ordered to be printed by

yeas and nays, as follows : YEAS—Messrs John Q. Adams, Green Adams YEAS—Messrs John Q. Adams, Green Adams, Ashmun, Barrow, Blanchard, Botts, Brady, Buckner, Butler, Canby, Chapman, Clapp, Chogman, Cocke, Collamer, Conger, Cranaton, Crisfield, Crowell, Crozier, Diekey, Dixon, Doanell, Duer, Daniel Duncau, Garnett Duncau, Duan, Eckert, Edwards, Embree, Alexander Evans, Nathan Evans, Farrelly, Fisher, Gayle, Gentry, Giddings, Gott, Gregory, Grinnell, Hale, Nathan K. Hall, Moses Hampton, Haskell, Heury, Elias B. Holmes, Hubbard, Hwdson, Joseph R. Ingersoll, Irvin, Jenkins, John W. Jones, Daniel P.-King, Wm. T. Lawrence, Sidney Lawrence, Lincoln, Mellvaine, Marsh, Marvin, Mullin, Nelson, Newell, Outlaw, Palfrey, Pendleton, Pollock, Putnam, Reynolds, Julius Rockwell, John A. ton, Pollock, Putnam, Reynolds, Julius Rockwell, John A. Rockwell, Roman, Root, Rumsey, St. John, Schenck, Shepperd, Sherrill, Silvester, Slingerland, Calch B. Smith, Tru-

perd, Sherrill, Silvester, Singerland, Caico B. Smith, Fruman Smith, Andrew Stewart, Strohm, Tallmadge, Thibodeaux, Taylor, Tompkins, Richard W. Thompson, John B.
Thompson, Wm. Thompson, Thurston, Toombs, Van Dyke,
Vinton, Warren, Wentworth, White, Wilson—98.

NAYS—Mesers, Atkinson, Beale, Bedinger, Bingham,
Birdsall, Black, Bocock, Bowdon, Bowlin, Boyd, Wm. G.
Brown, Charles Brown, Burt, Catheart, Chase, Franklin
Clark, Beverly L. Clark, Howell Cobb, Collins, Cummins,
David, Dickinson, Edsall, Faran, Featherston, Fickfill Clark, Beverly L. Clark, Howell Cobb, Collins, Cummins, Daniel, Dickinson, Edsall, Faran, Featherston, Ficklin, Plournoy, Fries, French, Fulton, Goggio, Green, Willard P. Hall, Harvis, Henley, Hill, George S. Houston, Inge, Iverson, Andrew, Johnson, Robert W. Johnson, George W. Jones, Kautman, Kennon, Lahm, La Scre, Leffler, Ligon, Lord, Lumpkin, Maclay, McClelland, McClernand, McKay, McLane, Mann, Miller, Morse, Nicoll, Peck, Petrie, Peyton, Phelps, Pilsbury, Preston, Richardson, Richey, Sawyer, Simpson, Sims, Smart, Robert Smith, Stanton, Starkweather, Stephens, Charles E. Stuart, Thomas, Jas. Thompson, Turner, Venable, Williams, Wiley, Woodward—83. So the memorial was ordered to be printed.

duy, addressed the committee during his allotted hour in a speech of his usual elaborately finished style and rapid delivery. The Reporter can only present such a brief and imperbut, as had been well said by another, in their overheated but, as had been well said by another, in their overheated but, as had been well said by another, in their overheated but, even sho ry. The Reporter can only present such a brief and imper-fect outline of its general features as he was able to catch. Mr. M. said that he proposed to avail himself of this occa-sion to do what he had never before attempted to do in this ed to be the opinion of a large majority of his constituents, and, as he hoped, of the whole American people, on the and, as he hoped, of the whole American people, on the causes, motives, objects, and dependencies of the existing war with Mexico, and which would induce him to vote against the further prosecution of hostilities, which, though avowedly commenced for defence, were obviously to be carried on for ment which had been made on this floor, and the profis in further presecution of hostilities, which, though avowedly commenced for defence, were obviously to be carried on for the purposes of conquest. The advocates of the war said that it was now too late to stop, and the only question to be settled was, what means ought to be adopted to bring the war to confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be repeated again in that Ho confidence, were soon to be set-Mr. Speaker, (said be,) this is not the first time since this war began that memorials of this character have been presented to this House, containing the same views.

And what do these memorialists ask for? They pray Congress to feel the responsibility of the situation in the same views. enemies? Mr. M. was one who never had been able to see the distinction between public and private morality, and who held that there was a broad distinction between a war for

this war, it was unimportant to distinguish between its pri-ary cases and its immediate occasion. It was now, he beeved, pretty generally if not universally admitted that the mary crose and its imi our war with Mexico was the annexation of exas; the proximate cause was certainly the advance of the ates army to the banks of the Rio Grande; but it were against their country because of their peculiar notions on did not therefore follow that the war was a necessary conse-the subject, of war. They may have been honest; but the fault of this people is that they permit their peculiar notions to existence of the war, though its predecessor might have proovercome their patriotism and love of country. That is the duced that state of things out of which it had grown. If the overcome their patriotism and fove of country. That is the fault they have committed. They may charge the fault on others, but I say we may charge it on them. They know that they were opposed to this country in the last war with Great

After the fatal wound we had inflicted on the national ho ce of Mexico, by the absorption of a revolted proold a war : ot, as had been well shown by his friend fro Connecticut, (u aderstood to refer to Mr. Dixon,) the Admi had bong fide endeavored to avoid it by soc for them as citizens, but not for their peculiar notions. I am ing the wounded feelings of Mexico, or doing any thing to personally acquainted with many of them, and I admit they conciliate a until this were tried they had no right to presume, beforehand, that she would refuse all conciliation. She had at any rate committed no hostile acts; the casus belli had not cause this memorial asks us to make a prace—not a peace that will redound to the honor of the American name, but an unconditional peace, without regard to the order of the American name, but an unconditional peace, without regard to the control of the American name, but an unconditional peace, without regard to the control of the American name, but an unconditional peace, without regard to the control of the control of the American name, but an unconditional peace, without regard to the control of the control o ledge beforehand of its character and results; but this much he would say, that he had no doubt the President had ordered the advance of our troops under the hope that he might thereby goad Mexico into some hostile act, that would serve as reil that they profess to be opposed to military chieftains as and a proportionate augmentation of Executive patronage; are occupants of the high offices of this republic, but they have and that he calculated at the cost of a small war to exten from Mexico her fairest provinces, thereby placing President Polk by the side of President Tyler, on the bad eminence "enlargers of the area

But, besides all this, the Executive resolved on taking step to get the Californias. The surrender of Oregon had b predetermined, and it became necessary to propitiate the irri-tated feelings of the West, indignant as that high-spirited people would certainly be at the loss of what they all had been ught was their "unquestionable" right. A war with Mexicq presented itself as the readiest and most likely method to PALFREY said that he understood the gentleman effect this object, by opening to Western enterprise new re-

ries of peace, and had chaplets to bestow only on the bold and reckless soldier. Mr. M. had no wish to see Mexican women converted into widows, and their cities given to the flame. He had rather his country would si down in honest shame than enjoy the guilty glory of having, by lawless violence, spread her dominion over this entire continent. One murder made a villain, a thousand made a hero; but the statesman who sat coolly down in the seclusion of his closet, and planned a war of party ambition, and the hot-headed ruler whose orders bathed a land in blood, were bu wholesale mandiscovering that by an order rashly given to gratify a woman with the sight of a battle-field, he had shortened, though but for a few days, the lives of many of his faithful soldiers; but what compunctious visitings, what gracious drops of generous repentance, had this Administration ever exhibited at the sweeping slaughter in the streets of Monterey, the crushing of women and children in the bombardment of Vera Cruz, at the pestilence of the camp, sweeping thousands into an inglorious grave, or even at the tears and mourning that were to be witnessed in the highways of this metropolis?

But, while discussing the question of morals involved in the prosecution of this war, it would be well to inquire into

probable loss of a great market for Northern manufactures; and a humbug was gotten up about Texas being necessary to the Union as a means of strengthening the defence of an exposed frontier; and, as a make-weight, there had been thrown in an apprehension of the power of British influence which would be exerted there should annexation not be effected; but zeal, the friends of annexation conceded a principle when the abolitionists had not been slow to take advar place, viz. express his own opinion and that which he believ- hitherto been confined exclusively to the legislative power of the States.

Mr. M. said he should not now undertake to discuss the Perpetuation of slavery.

However wrong the motive of the war might have be-

there was yet more of crime in the means used in bringing it to pass. Whoever wished to read the blackest page in American history should ferret out the secret intrigues, the hidden unacknowledged plans and insidious deceptive efforts, to excite the nation and get it up to the war pitch, in order to use that powerful feeling to effect certain predetermined party objects. He ought to dive into the recesses of that Machiavelian policy which held out different baits to different portions of the try, that, by combining the action of many discordan ments and applying it in one direction, annexation might be accomplished in spite of the North. He should watch and see how that contemptible faction long continued to science and party interest, till they were at last fixed by

polous in plotting to effect annexation was less enormous in atrocity than that of their Northern allies, who had excused their votes for annexation under the salvo of the "Wilmot Well, and if they were, were gentlemen here ready to tax them according to others.

If had been very flatteringly said here that the people were two particular to refuse taxation for the support of the war. Well, and if they were, were gentlemen here ready to tax them according to the provisions and original intent of the lift they chose to go to longerheads with each other about the

He knew that there were some Democrats who had voted means of testifying the regret they felt at having voted annexation. But the great mass were of a far different Western candidate for the Presidency, who had commit idiate lay snugly perdu, and escaped the responsibility. If ask and she to give.

The same Western gentleman should be a candidate, his noisiest advocates would find—but what it was they would find the reasons against the acquisition of new territory; and he thought

It ought never to be forgotten that the strength of a nation was not measured by the strength of her army or navy, or by the splendor of its Government. A splendid Government was not the object in the view of our fathers when they framed the constitution. Would any gentleman maintain that the little republic of San Marino was less happy than the great States of Europe, or that the Duchy of Tuscany was less happily administered than if it were under the splendid sceptre of Metternich? Did gentlemen forget that the quiet, unpretending Norway was at this day the freest country in Europe? It was not military strength which enabled a country to resist the invasion of their liberties. Great fleets and armies, on the contrary, were themselves means of Executive patronage. contrary, were themselves means of Executive patronage. They were a concentrated embodiment of Executive power, while the resistance of that power was ensembled from its being scattered. In small republics the distribution of power among different departments tended to the preservation of liberty. But in large republics the reverse was true. The States had no fleets, no regular armies; and though the militia, even one State, mo regular armses; and though the militia, even of one State, might defy the armies of the Federal Government to arms, yet those armies might nevertheless enable an ambitious and unprincipled President to subvert the liberty of his country. So it had happened in the case of Rome: the legions which had been raised for the protection of the frontier had fixed a Dictator on the throng. And so it seemed not tier had fixed a Dictator on the throne. And so it seemed n impossible it should happen again. What had we lately seen? The legions of Pennsylvania had voted in Mexico. The ballot-box was carried with them as a piece of camp furniture, and a military commander issued his order for the holding of an election for civil officers!

the prosecution of this war, it would be well to inquire into the origin, the causa causarum, which was to be found in the annexation of Texas.

Perhaps the bare act of annexation itself, apart from the motives which led to it, and the means by which it was effected, might not warrant a declaration of war on the part of Mexico. To determine this point, it was requisite that we should know more than would, in all probability, be ever known by the present generation touching the relations of Mexico to her revolted province. It might be urged that Texas was at the time actually independent; and it was pos-Texas was at the time actually independent; and it was possible, though the fact had never yet been proved, that her revolt from under the Mexican authority was justified by her wolt from under the Mexican authority was justified by her misrule and oppression; but our ground of judgment must have respect to the motives and the means which produced ther annexation to this Union. The motive, the avowed motive, was to prevent the abolition of slavery in Texas, and to get more space for extending and strengthening that institution. The annexation was held to be necessary to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder: it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder it was indispensable in order to the security of the slaveholder it had not been better for us had we remained to this day within those limits. Our territory was then equal to the kingdom of most European monarchs; it was inviolable by any foreign Power; it supplied us with a vast and growing commerce: what more did we need? Mr. M. would not dispute the wisdom of acquiring Florida and the equal to the kingdom of most European monarchs; it was inviolable by any foreign Power; it supplied us with a vast and growing commerce: what more did we need? Mr. M. would not dispute the wisdom of acquiring Florida and the equal to the kingdom of most European monarchs; it was inviolable by any foreign Power; it supplied us with a vast and growing commerce: what m the inference drawn from these premises was, that therefore the General Government was bound to aid in the project. It was true that a timid suggestion had been added as to the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the probable loss of a great washes for North and the project. be increased, or the price of Genesee flour raised, by our get-ting New Mexico; or how the merchants of Boston, and New York, and Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and Charleston would

he passed all these considerations, because, though the might possibly be successful in gulling such persons as had been simple enough to give credence to the Kane letter, assuring them that Mr. Polk was a great friend to protecting demestic industry, yet it was perfectly notorious that they never had availed to influence a single vote in Congress.

Denent of posterity.

Mr. M. confessed, moreover, that he was a good deal skeptical as to the very florid descriptions which were given us of the regions of California and Oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that some represented them to be in fertility of soil and natural very state of the regions of california and oregon; but if they were all that was a good deal skeptical very reasons than had never had admitted, and, without thronger reasons than had never would admitted, and, without the admitted, and his people were prepared to admit to much they admitted, and, without the adm amined it. He did not object to its printing on account of its coming from the Society of Friends; his objection rose on the perinciple he had laid down. He trusted the House would not depart from a custom founded in justice and propriety—that was, to refuse to print memorials whenever presented, unless they came from the State Legislatures, or unless there was some peculiar cause for their printing. To this rule he knew treasure of this war to obtain such an acquisition as that? But, even should the acquisition of territory be permanent, where was the proof that it would be of any advantage to us abolitionists had not been slow to take advantage of, vs. that Congress had the right of legislation on a subject which had hitherto been confined exclusively to the legislative power of dense population: they were adapted only for the residence of a people in the lowest stage of civilization, in the semi-bar-barous or pastoral stage. The population was mixed, heteparous or pastoral stage. The population was mixed, hete-rogeneous, and different from us in language, laws, religion, and customs. The experience of years had proved that they were unable to govern themselves: they were too ignorant to appreciate the value and blessings of free government, or to

> to bear the expenses of a war undertaken and prosecuted exclusively to promote the interests of the South? The annexation of Texas, by bringing two new votes into the Senate, had
> enabled the South to depreciate the industry of the North, and
> deprive it of the national protection; and now the same political aspirants, after having done this, and plunged the country in a war, called upon the North to pay the expenses of
> the whole movement. The Secretary of the Treasury proposed to tax tea and coffee; others proposed to tax all the articles of the free list; others to tax bank stock and gold and
> silver vessels. Disguise the scheme as they might, it was all
> in regard to this question; that Texas—revolutionary Texas, silver vessels. Disguise the scheme as they might, it was all in regard to this question; that Texas—revolutionary Texas, if they pleased so to term it—was entitled to all the territory ern interests, upon the shoulders of the North. Would Southern interests, upon the shoulders of the North. Would Southern gentlemen tell him what amount of bank stock was owned amount of costly jewelry adorned their persons or their dress? Or what golden goblets or silver plate were usually employed

by them at their meals?

Mr. M. here warned these gentlemen that none of these means which proved irresistible. He should take pains to learn what votes had been dictated by craven fear, and what by damnable corruption.

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If they chose to go to loggerheads with each other about the name let them do so, and keep at it as long as they liked.

Mr. M. was willing to vote in support of that war. Whether it was the Brinkerhoff or the Wilmot proviso, it was the oldest experiment that ever had been tried on the credulity taxation would be needed. Mr. M. was not of that opinion. of the American people; but now that that humbug had ut-terly failed to accomplish either of the objects for which it was gotten up, he should not be surprised if those who had een the loudest and most clamorous in its favor should prove that should follow it, it would be found that the estimate to be the very first to listen to the voice of temptation from made by a distinguished gentleman at the other end of the

Capitol was not an extravagant one.

The population of Mexico at this time was three times in for that measure who were men of honor and integrity, and had been actuated by an honest regard for the good of the divided as we had been by doubts as to the soundness of our people ; but others had been tempted to concur in the measure cause ; not a doubt was felt in any breast, but they were all united as one man in the defence of their country and their religion. Now, if Great Britain, after an eight years' conscription. Some were actuated by a propelling force oper-test, was content to withdraw her fleets and armies, and sa-ing at home; others for the sake of disposing of an obnox-crifice every point for which she had gone to war with us, at crifice every point for which she had gone to war with us, at what expense should we in the end be willing to withdraw d himself by a vote in the Senate, while their Northern can- from Mexico and sign a peace, giving all we were willing to

He referred to the gross injustice that had been done to the bravest officers of the regular army. Not only had they been treated with studied neglect, but a strenuous effort was made to deprive them of the credit they had so dearly earned, and to ascribe to the mere animal courage of volunteers what was due to the skill and science of the educated gentlemen of the army. He did not deny the valor and patriotism of the volunteers. Americans had often proved their possession of these virtues on many a hard-fought field, when annexing Mexico was never heard of. But what excited the loud commendations of intelligent military men of other nations, was the skilful strategetical movements, the scientific combinations, and judicious ordering of the field which had guided the valor of the army to such illustrious victories. This was owing to the military education enjoyed by the leading officers. But this was decried: and an effort would, he doubted not, yet be renewed to prostrate the military school, and make the commands in our army mere rewards of partisan services; and the road to military preferment would be found in political subserviency and

a stanch adherence to party mandates.

Mr. M. was referring to the studied absence of all Executive commendation of the merits of those who had effected the noblest exploits of valor and skill, when his hour expired, and he resumed his seat.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, next obtained the floor. He was not insensible (he said) to the many disadvantages under which he labored in rising to address the committee after the very classical and elegant speech of the honorable gentleman from Vermont who had just preceded him—a speech as beautiful in thought as it was chaste in its delivery, and as it was (in his opinion) erroneous in its deductions and improper in its conclusions. If he had had the opportunity to select the position in the debate which he should have chosen for himelf, he assured the committee that it would not have been to follow the gentleman who had just resumed his seat. In-deed, he had no inclination to participate in this discussion, except for the purpose of expressing, through the House to those who might have an interest in the opinions which he and his constituents entertained, the views which he held in regard to the great question under discussion. He desired that when the account-current of national sentiment in regard

to this war was made up, the opinions which he and his constituents entertained might be included.

He agreed with the eloquent gentleman to whom the committee had just listened, that the annexation of Texas was the cause of this war. Whoever might doubt or dispute it, he array upon our soil, brought her with her armies and her banners upon seil claimed by the people of the United States as rightfully within our limits, and which, he thought he should be able to demonstrate (if the proposition yet needed demonstration) did rightfully belong to this Government.

stration) did rightfully belong to this Government.

This was quite a different thing. Mexico upon a foreign sea might insult our flag; Mexico in some remote corner of the universe might murder an American citizen; Mexico might violate her treaty stipulations with us; and such was our love peace that we still would rely on diplomacy to get us out of the difficulty. But when Mexico came upon our own soil, and here insulted us and violated our national rights, it pre

and nere insulted us and violated our national rights, it preappreciate the value and blessings of free government, or to
sustain it even when it should be set up among them.

But how was this war to be carried on? Did the Administration really presume that the North would be weak enough territory, in his opinion, which was acquired by the United States from France by the treaty of 1803, and which was

three or four millions of our Southern slaves. What it was included in the treaty of 1803 or that of 1819. He agreed that the gentleman had settled the controversy. Ho agreed that the gentleman had settled the controversy. Ho agreed that the gentleman had settled the controversy. Ho (Mr. B.) was willing to meet him on his own ground. Texas was entitled to all the territory which she conquered by her arms, over which she extended and maintained civil and military jurisdiction. Now, what territory was that? It was the territory of Texas to the Rio Grande on the west. When did Mexico ever invade Texas except across that line? And when did Texas ever cease to assert her right to territory up the did Texas ever cease to assert her right to territory up. to that line? Whenever she pursued the retreating foe, she pursued them to the Rio Grande. That was her boundary; and when she crossed that, if she pursued further, it was only to drive them a little beyond the line which she claimed.

He went on to show that Texas had jurisdiction over the sputed territory ; that she defined her bo indaries : that she cluding that territory in the valley of the Rio Grande, from which she formed a senatorial district, to all of which she had spread their labors before the public. he same title as to any other part of Texas, viz. the right conferred by a successful revolution.

He then reviewed the circumstances in connexion with an-

Slidell's mission, and said that it was a prefence to reject Mr. Slidell's mission, and said that it was a pretence to reject Mr.
Slidell because he was an envoy and not a commissioner, arguing from the published documents that the Mexican Government had expected an envoy to be sent. In support of this position, he quoted from the correspondence of Mr. Black, our consul, and said it was brazen impudence to refuse an envoy, who had power to settle all questions in dispute, under the pretence that they desired a commissioner with power only to settle one. He then addressed himself to the question so to settle one. He then addressed himself to the question so much discussed, of the march of Gen. Taylor and his army to the Rio Grande, with instructions to take a position on the frontier. Gen. Taylor had pitched his tent at Corpus Christi, and on the 4th of October he made a formel application to the War Department to be allowed to move his position to the Rio Grande. The reasons for this had been so often stated on this floor that he deemed it unnecessary to repeat them. The request of Gen. Taylor was not allowed until the 13th The request of Gen. Taylor and the request of Gen. Taylor and the request of Gen. Taylor and the request of Gen. Tayl Reporter failed to bear.] In March that proviso had been defeated by five votes, after having been previously carried by nine. The Administration succeeded in its defeat by using only five votes; had more been necessary, they could have had fifty. [Voices, "That is a fact."] But because an election was approaching in New Hampshire, and another in Connecticut, and something else was coming on in Maine, a dispensation was granted for this one time to Northern friends of the Administration, and they were allowed as an act of grace to vote for the proviso, for this time.

The same we should be short of any dismemberment of Mexico. District that it was possible, by a unitary of the short of any dismemberment of Mexico. District that it was possible, by a unitary of the structure of January alterwards, though made on the 4th of October, as war for conquest; and say that they were really to settle upon the terms offered at the commencement of the struggle. There was another consideration which ought to have comment we should acquire any new territory at the South the flames of the old Missouri question would break forth anew and burn more fiercely than before. The very moment such

cond not expected the bases, that is we not containery to print constraint, except messaginist of States. But four the condition are negated the we let at a special point constraint, except messaginist of States. But four the condition are negated the we let at a special point constraint, except messaginist of States. But four the condition are negated the we let at a special point constraint, and the condition are negated the we let at a special point of the condition and the condition are negated the we let at a special point of the condition and the condition are negated the we let at a special point of the condition and the condition are negated the wealth of the condition are negated the we let at a special point of the condition are negative to the Human and the condition are negated the proposition of multiplication of the condition and the condition are negative to the condition and the condition and the condition are negative to the condition and the cond

But, again, as to the means to carry on the war. A pro-position had been brought in to levy direct taxes, which was supported by a most extraordinary argument. Gentlemen were told it would never do to tax tea and coffee, but they must have direct taxes. The slaves of the South must be taxed. Piteous lamentations were uttered for the condition of the poor man. No matter if the poor man was bareheaded. and exposed to the inclemency of the seasons—his tea and coffee must not be taxed. Now, he devoutly and most religiously believed in the maxim, millions for defence but not a cent for tribute. He was ready to vote millions for the defence of the honor and the rights of the country against foreign aggression but he never would vote one cent of tribute for the support of the large manufacturers at the North. He had no sympathy for any man, whether Whig or Democrat, who could not vote for a tax on tea and coffee, but could tax leather, iron, and every other article which the people used, to build up the lordly

The committee then rose and the House adjourned

TO THE EDITORS.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 10, 1848. GENTLEMEN: In your paper of this date I am reported as saying said: "But Gen. Taylor, instead of letting the river [the Rio Grande] alone, had ordered its mouth to be block-'aded, and sent a message to Ampudia, warning him that 'the Mexican army must either withdraw from the river, or 'cross it and fight. This is incorrect. Instead of the words here attributed to me I read an extract from Gen. Taylor's letter of the 23d of April, 1846, to the Secretary of War, as fetter of the 23d of April, 1846, to the Secretary of War, as follows: "In my last despatch I advised you that, on receipt of Gen. Ampudia's summons to fall back from my position, I ordered a blockade of the mouth of the Rio Grande, deeming this a measure perfectly proper under the circumstances. \* \* I trust that my course in this matter will meet the approval of the Department. It will at any rate compel the Mexicans either to withdraw their army from Matamoros, where it cannot be subsisted, or to assume the offensive on this side of the river."

There are other important errors, inadvertently made, no doubt, by your usually accurate Reporters, which I will here-after correct in writing out what I said at length.

Respectfully, JAMES H. THOMAS.

NOTE, BY THE EDITORS.

We give place, with cheerfulness, to the preceding note from one of the Representatives in Congress from the State of Tennessee; and should have let it pass without a word, had it simply corrected an error in the report of the honorable gentleman's speech, without the addition of expressions which

Hall of Representatives, preclude the idea of such reports in that body. SECONDEY. Full reports of the debates in that bedy must

not be expected, because the capacity of no daily paper published in Washington could contain them. Nor are they at all necessary for the only purpose for which the Publishers incur the enormous expense of such reports as are made; which purpose is not to publish daguerreotype portraits (so to speak) of each Member's speech, but to inform the readers of the paper reported for, of the reasons, generally, which are urged for or against any public measure. For this purpose it may indeed be asked, and the question would be well put, why publish more than one speech on each side of any question? To which we reply, that it is from habit, rather than from reason, that we publish as many speeches as we can on each side (or on all sides-for there are sometimes several sides) of a question. We are under no obligation of any sort to do it, and our readers would often be better pleased to see the space in our columns otherwise occupied. The habit of which we speak was contracted when this paper was the sole reporter of debates in Congress, and was able to report the debates at large with less inconvenience, because they did not run out to half the length that they now do, in the aggregate, under the hour-rule.

THIRDLY. If the reports were to be both literal and accurate (of speeches as spoken) they would require frequently more corrections after their appearance than gentlemen in find necessary; for even the most accurate speaker occasionally uses other words (proper names, dates, and figures especially) than he intends, or mispronounces words, or omits some obvious word or idea, or repeats unconsciously what he had but just before said. This is a class of blunders sometimes more unlucky than any that reporters usually make, which

consistently with daily reports (from day to day)-which are written out between the hours of five and twelve o'clock in the evening, and sent to press before the ink is dry-that an opportunity can be given to each Member to revise the report or synopsis of his speech on any occasion, much allowance fixed the metes and bounds of counties within her limits, in- should be made for the Reporters, anxious of all things to do

By the readers of the reports, also, it should be borne in mind that the object and aim of reports is as above stated, and exation, and quoted the declaration of the Mexican minister that Members of Congress should not be held responsible for to this Government, that annexation would be equivalent to the exact turn of expression in the published report of any a declaration of war. He recited the facts in relation to Mr. debate, nor for defect of structure or want of connexion in the reported remarks, unless they are understood to have written them out themselves for publication, or at least revised the

> The note from Mr Thomas was received after his speech (on the other side of this sheet) had passed through the press

THE TREGULAR WIRES .- Several unsuccessful efforts water, but in attempting to draw it tight, broke it. The St.
Louis Republican thinks it questionable whether the wire can
be suspended across the river so high as to be out of danger
from the boats.

The first cord of the suspension bridge across the falls of Niagara was passed over on the 31st ultimo.